

**County Executive**  
**of**  
**Howard County, Maryland**

**Executive Order: 2015-04**  
**Dated: May 13, 2015**  
**Subject: Howard County Early**  
**Childhood Education Action Group**

**WHEREAS**, for many families, kindergarten marks the start of a child's formal education; and

**WHEREAS**, a child's first educational experiences can influence the way he or she relates to others and can influence the child's own well-being, self-esteem and motivation; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to ensure that when a child begins kindergarten he or she is developmentally ready to learn and participate in classroom activities; and

**WHEREAS**, for many of our County's children, the transition to kindergarten does not always go smoothly and many children may lag behind in areas of cognitive development and social/emotional development; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that children who have unsuccessful kindergarten experiences are less likely to catch up and do better in later grades and are more likely to drop out of school; and

**WHEREAS**, previous early childhood needs assessments have recommended more outreach, infrastructure, and financing options to enable families access to quality early education programs; and

**WHEREAS**, in June 2014, the State of Maryland authorized the creation of the Early Childhood Advisory Council in order to coordinate the work of early childhood care and educational programs; and

**WHEREAS**, similar to the State's Council, the County Executive wishes to establish an Early Childhood Education Action Group to consider currently existing programs and practices and to develop recommendations and a plan to enhance the availability and accessibility of quality early childhood education opportunities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED** by the County Executive of Howard County, Maryland that an Early Childhood Education Action Group is hereby established and charged with the following mission:

1. To engage key decision makers in the County in developing a plan to enhance the availability and accessibility of quality early childhood education opportunities;
2. To review current needs assessments and best practice recommendations and to prioritize recommendations to the County Executive and County Council;
3. To leverage community resources to implement prioritized recommendations; and
4. To promote the value of quality early childhood education particularly as it relates to and impacts workforce and economic development.

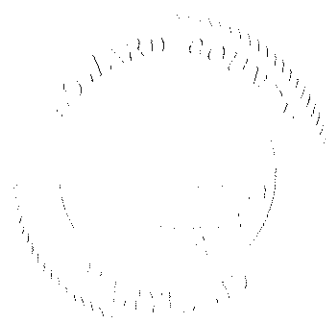
**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Mary Kay Sigaty shall serve as the Chairperson of the Action Group and the Group shall consist of the following members:

1. Karen Butler
2. Angel Cartagena
3. Bitu Dayhoff
4. Jacqueline Dougé
5. Robert L. Flanagan
6. Renee Foose
7. Hector Garcia
8. Ellen Flynn Giles
9. Chinnababu Gudapati
10. Guy Guzzone
11. Kursten Jackson
12. Leonardo McClarty
13. Ruth Nimmo
14. John Tenarowicz
15. Louis Valenti

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Action Group shall issue a report that shall be presented to the County Executive and County Council by January 1, 2016.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Action Group shall cease to exist on July 1, 2016 and the terms of the Action Group members shall expire on July 1, 2016.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I, Allan H. Kittleman, as County Executive of Howard County, Maryland have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Howard County to be affixed this 13th day of May, 2015.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Allan H. Kittleman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Allan H. Kittleman  
County Executive